

Wymondham Urban District

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 1949

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

TOGETHER WITH THE
ANNUAL REPORT of the
Sanitary Inspector

THE ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year 1949

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Wymondham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1949 which is compiled according to the directions of the Ministry of Health.

Details of the vital statistics for Wymondham Urban District are given below.

The Registrar-General estimates the population to be 5,576 which shows an increase of 62 over the population for the year 1948. The Live Birth Rate was 15.61 per 1,000 which is 1.09 less than the general rate for England and Wales but almost exactly the same as the Birth Rate in Wymondham during 1948. It is interesting to note that the Birth Rate in the Wymondham Urban District has remained practically steady and compares favourably with the general rate for England and Wales, whereas in other districts in Norfolk there has been a drop in the Birth Rate compared with the previous year and quite a marked discrepancy between it and the general rate for the country.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 12.71 which is practically the same as for 1948. The Death Rate for England and Wales during 1949 was 11.17 per 1,000 so that the Death Rate for Wymondham continues to be only very slightly higher than that for the country as a whole. There were 16 more births than deaths during the year.

The Still Birth Rate for the year 1949 was 22.5 per 1,000 total births and shows very little difference from the figure for 1948. The Mortality Rate for infants under one year was 11.49 per 1,000 live births which shows a marked drop on the figure for 1948 which itself was not unduly high. This indicates a high standard of infant care in the Urban District.

There was only one death from notifiable infectious disease during the year under review and this was due to pulmonary tuberculosis. There were no deaths in the Urban District attributable to childbirth or other maternal causes, so that the District's high record in this respect has been maintained.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year and actually a sharp diminution in the number of cases notified as compared with the previous year. There were only two cases of scarlet fever and no cases at all of diphtheria. There were 26 cases of measles notified during the last quarter of the year, the other part of the year being practically free. Three cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis were notified in the last quarter of 1949 and I am glad to say that none of these was fatal.

On the 31st December, 1949, there were 44 cases of tuberculosis on the Register of the District, 5 less than the figure for the previous year. The 44 cases were made up of 23 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 21 non-pulmonary tuberculosis. It is of interest to note that whereas in most districts of the country tuberculosis is on the increase it has, in fact, shown a slight diminution in your District.

The Area of your District is	...	...	...	...	10,950 acres
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	5,576
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£20,931
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£84

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	... ..	37	47	84
Illegitimate	... ..	1	2	3
				—
				87
				—
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population		...	...	15.61

STILL BIRTHS		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	—	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
				—
				2
				—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births		22.5

DEATHS

Number	71 (Male : 38, Female : 33)
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	12.7
Deaths from Pueperal Sepsis and other Maternal Causes	Nil
Death Rate of infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	11.49
Deaths from Cancer	13
Deaths from Heart Disease, Cerebral Hæmorrhage and other diseases of the Circulatory System	33
Deaths from Infectious Diseases	1

Analysis of Causes of Death during 1949.

CAUSE OF DEATH	TOTAL (ALL AGES)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1
Influenza	2
Cancer	13
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	9
Heart Diseases	22
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	2
Bronchitis	5
Pneumonia	1
Diseases of the Digestive System	6
Nephritis	1
Congenital Malformations and Birth Injuries	1
Suicide	1
Violent Causes	1
All other Causes	5
	<hr/>
	71
	<hr/>

Incidence of Infectious Diseases during 1949 (other than Tuberculosis)

	1ST. QTR.	2ND. QTR.	3RD. QTR.	4TH. QTR.
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	1
Measles	1	—	—	26
Ac. Pneumonia	1	1	2	—
Erysipelas	2	1	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	3
Inf. Hepatitis	—	—	—	1
Total Number of Infectious Diseases			43	
			<hr/>	

Water Supplies.

The Mains Water Supply of the Urban District continued to be adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality throughout the year. To meet the increased demand of the district for water, the Council has under consideration the sinking of another bore at the existing Wicklewood site. The water is obtained from the chalk and is softened and chlorinated before going into public supply. Bacteriological tests made in various parts of the district throughout the year showed the water to be highly satisfactory.

Sewage Disposal.

The existing sewage disposal works are barely adequate for the needs of the Urban District and, in fact, the works are often over-taxed for the treatment plant available. Major repairs were required during the year and a new Dozing Chamber was completed. The Council has in hand the question of extension of the works which, it is to be hoped, will not be long delayed.

Housing.

The serious shortage of houses for persons living in the district continues although the Council has built as many houses as present restrictions and regulations allow. Applications for Council Houses have increased to 182 from 149 the previous year. 88 of these applications are from families with one or no children. The family problem noted last year therefore continues. It is interesting to note that the number of childless families on the application list has increased from 31 in 1948 to 53 in 1949 and that one child families have decreased to 35 from 53 in 1948. No doubt the Council's policy of housing young married couples is therefore having its effect. There is a need for more factual information about the state of fitness for human habitation of houses in general throughout the Wymondham Urban District so that the full magnitude of the problem can be properly visualised. For this purpose it would be necessary to carry out a housing survey of inhabited dwellings in the district. Standards of fitness for houses already exist and are widely operated in other districts. The difficulty in Wymondham would be to carry out such a survey with the existing staff although something might be done even under present circumstances but it might take a long time to complete. In this connection I have for a long time felt that some

qualified assistance is required by the existing Sanitary Inspector to ease the very heavy burden of his combined duties.

In conclusion I wish to thank members of the Council and staff for their assistance and encouragement during the year and I would like to give a special word of thanks to the Clerk to the Council and to Mr. Hudson, your Sanitary Inspector, for the most enthusiastic and efficient help they have given me in my work during the period of my office as Medical Officer of Health, Wymondham Urban District.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. SINCLAIR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Wymondham Urban District.

September, 1950.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report

1949

To the Chairman and Members of the Wymondham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Staff.

Your Sanitary Inspector holds in addition the appointments of Highway Surveyor, Building Surveyor and Petroleum Inspector, and has the services of two male clerks.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The system of sewerage in the town is a partially separate system. It was originally intended that it should be a separate system, but a considerable quantity of surface water now finds its way into the sewers and the Lea Recorders shows that the flow increases from about 200,000 gallons (average dry weather flow) to above the 1,000,000 mark during periods of heavy rain.

There have been no serious stoppages during the year.

During the year the Pople Street housing site was sewered ; the work consisted of the laying of about 370 yards of 6" glazed stoneware pipes with an outfall to the existing 9" sewer in Pople Street. Manholes were of the precast concrete type.

Apart from the new Dozing Chamber, which was completed during December, 1949, there is no change to report under the heading of Sewage Disposal. The question of additions to the works is in the hands of the Council's Consulting Engineers. The lowering of the river bed, by the Drainage Authority, has had a beneficial effect upon the works.

Water.

(a) Town Supply.

There is a piped water supply in the Urban part of the district, with pumping station situate at Wicklewood in the Rural District of Forehoe and Henstead. The undertaking is owned by the Wymondham Urban District Council.

The headworks comprise 2-12" boreholes each 300 ft. in depth, with 2 Harland Centrifugal Pumps. The water is filtered, softened and chlorinated and the storage reservoir has a capacity of 240,000 gallons.

There are between 10 and 11 miles of mains with diameters of from 3" to 7", serving about two thirds of the total population of the Urban District, by gravity.

The water from the bores has a hardness of 19.6 degrees (17.5 temporary and 2.1 permanent) this is reduced by treatment to about 7 degrees of hardness.

During the year the following extensions have been made :—

1. 210 yards of 4" and 110 yards of 3" cast iron mains to serve the new Pople Street Housing Estate (36 houses) ;

2. Link mains consisting of :—

870 yards of 7" main Becketswell to Fairland.

1017 yards of 4" main Station Road to Park Lane, as far as Green Lane.

234 yards of 3" main Park Lane—Silfield Road, along Green Lane.

140 yards of 4" main Fairland to Police Station, through Sale ground.

3. Extension of the Norwich Road main to the Urban District Boundary to connect up with the Forehoe and Henstead new main serving the parish of Hethersett. Length of new 4" main in the Urban District 1021 yards. As a result of this extension 14 additional properties on the Norwich Road have been connected to the town supply.

Water is now supplied in bulk to the Forehoe and Henstead R.D.C. to meet the requirements of five parishes adjoining the Urban District.

The position at the 31st December 1949, with regard to the Headworks was that the Consulting Engineers supported by an opinion of Professor Jones had reported that the present site was as good as any that could be found but before proceeding with the construction of a new borehole with the object of securing a yield of 20,000 g.p.h. the present source should be put to a stringently controlled test. It was arranged for a deputation to visit the Ministry of Health to ascertain the exact nature of the test which they would require before authorising the Council to proceed further with the proposed extension of the headworks.

Three samples were taken during the year for Bacteriological examination and in each case the result was the same, viz :—

“ This sample is highly satisfactory.”

The result of a chemical analysis of a sample of the water taken during the year was as follows, viz :—

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS					GRAINS PER GALLON
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0007
Chlorine as Chlorides	...	...	...	...	1.5
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total Iron	...	...	...	...	0.0038
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	7.9°
Physical Characters	...	...	...	...	Bright and Clear

REMARKS BY ANALYST :—

This result shows that treatment has been eminently successful. The organic matter is improved, iron removed, and hardness reduced to an appropriate figure. This water is in every way fit for drinking and the purposes of a public supply.

Summary of Water Officer's Weekly Reports for the Year ended 31st December, 1949.

MONTH	WATER PUMPED AND SOFTENED		LIME USED	ALUMINA USED
January	...	6,698,000	13,510	76
February	...	5,379,000	11,042	206
March	...	5,530,000	10,458	510
April	...	6,748,500	13,216	560
May	...	4,804,750	12,416	448
June	...	4,913,000	11,376	436

July ...	...	6,606,000	15,652	560
August ...	...	4,944,950	12,334	448
September ...	...	5,323,000	12,526	448
October ...	...	4,733,250	14,687	350
November ...	...	4,604,750	12,224	304
December ...	...	6,054,900	14,280	380
		<u>66,340,100</u>	<u>153,721 lbs.</u>	<u>4,726 lbs.</u>
= tons cwts. lbs. = tons cwts. lbs.				
		68 12 57	2 2 22	
1948		<u>59,963,000</u>	<u>69 19 59</u>	<u>1 19 16</u>
Increase		<u>6,377,100</u>	<u>dec. 1 7 21</u>	<u>incr. 3 6</u>

2.3171 lbs. of lime used to every 1,000 gallons.

CONNECTIONS	FROM MAIN TO STOP-COCK	FROM STOP-COCK TO PREMISES	METERS INSTALLED
January ...	1	—	2
February ...	—	—	—
March ...	1	—	1
April ...	4	3	1
May ...	3	5	1
June ...	4	3	—
July ...	14	3	3
August ...	1	4	1
September ...	1	5	—
October ...	1	3	—
November ...	1	1	—
December ...	2	1	—
	<u>33</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>9</u>
Parish of Hingham consumed ...	...	...	7,964,000 gallons
Wymondham alone consumed ...	...	...	58,376,100 gallons
Average daily consumption in Wymondham			160,374 gallons
Average daily consumption in Hingham ...			21,879 gallons
Consumption through meter (including Hingham)	...	...	20,314,404 gallons
Ditto ...	...	... 1948	17,877,768 gallons
		Increase of	<u>2,436,636 gallons</u>

NUMBER OF CONSUMERS.

Meters 58. Spceial arrangement 24. Building supplies 8.
Domestic 1220. Total 1310.

b) New Council Houses, Spooner Row.

In December, 1948, a new 4" bore came into use serving the new Council Houses at Spooner Row. The bore is 155 feet in depth and lined to a depth of 133 feet.

Two samples for Bacteriological examination were taken during the year, the results being as follows :—

1. Number of coliform bacilli.
MacConkey 2 days, 37° C. O per 100 ml.
Remarks :—This sample is highly satisfactory.
2. Number of coliform bacilli.
MacConkey 2 days, 37° C. 2 per 100 ml.
Non-fæcal coli. 100 per cent.
Remarks :—This sample is satisfactory.

The result of chemical analysis of samples of water from this supply were as follows :—

	SAMPLE NO. 1	SAMPLE NO. 2
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	0.0085	0.010
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.0015	0.0014
Combined Chlorine ...	1.8	1.9
Nitrogen as Nitrates ...	Nil	Nil
Nitrites ...	Nil	Nil
Iron in solution ...	0.011	0.266
Total Solids in solution ...	26.6	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F. ...	0.019	—
Hardness before boiling (total)	23°	22.4°
Hardness after boiling (per- manent) ...	4°	—

REMARKS OF ANALYST :—

Sample No. 1.

This water is of good organic quality, of average hardness, and free from any sign of pollution. It appears to be somewhat ferruginous, but only needs clarification, when necessary, to prove a water of excellent quality suitable for drinking and all the purposes of a public supply.

Sample No. 2.

The sample maintains its character as a ferruginous water, is of good organic quality and obviously amenable to appropriate treatment for removal of iron.

(c) Other Supplies.

Samples for Bacteriological examination were taken from 7 shallow wells and of these

6 were unsatisfactory, and
1 satisfactory.

In one case the well was serving 14 persons (5 cottages). The cottages were within reasonable distance of the town supply and the 3 owners involved shared the expense of laying on a pipe supply.

In another case (a farm) the owner put down a bore to replace the shallow well.

Defective drains were found to be the cause of pollution in the case of another farm. The drains were made good and the well cleaned out, resulting in a great improvement.

In the case of a well serving 4 cottages the cause of pollution was undoubtably the absence of drainage and practice of depositing waste water on the garden not far from the well. A drainage system serving the 2 cottages in vicinity of the well was put in by the owner and the well repaired and cleaned out.

In the remaining cases improvements were brought about by cleaning out and liming the wells.

At the close of the year the Council was delivering water to 3 houses where the wells had gone dry.

Housing.

During the year 31 houses were completed and occupied, 24 by the Council, and 7 by private enterprise, and at the close of the year 36 were under construction, 28 by the Council and 8 by private enterprise.

One bungalow was being built without licence within the £100 free limit.

The position with regard to post-war housing at the end of the year under review was that a grand total of 154 houses had been completed and occupied, 15 temporary and 98 permanent by the Council and 41 by private enterprise.

At the 31st December, 1949, the register of applications for Council houses from persons residing or working in the Urban District shows 182 live applications, made up as follows :—

Childless Families	...	...	...	...	53
One Child Families	...	...	...	...	35
Families with 2 or more children	...	...	...	...	44
Old people requiring bungalows	...	...	...	...	50

For comparison purposes the figures at 31st December, 1948, were :—

Childless Families	31
One Child Families	53
Families with 2 or more children	54
Old people requiring bungalows	11

It is interesting to note the large increase in applications from old people following the commencement of the building of the 12 bungalows in Back Lane.

Two applications were granted under Section 3 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1938, as amended by Section 13 of the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1946. One of these applications was subsequently withdrawn but in the other case the bungalow was nearing completion at the end of the year.

The number of persons who have applied for and are still awaiting a licence to build a house for themselves is 34.

Section 11, Housing Act 1936.

Demolition Orders in respect of 4 cottages were made by the Council during the year under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936.

Repair of Unfit Houses.

Repairs have been carried out to several cottages during the year, by the issue of informal notices, after inspection of the cottages, following complaints from the tenants.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Butchers' Shops and Slaughter Houses.

These have been visited several times and I have had no occasion to find fault. There is no Ministry of Food Slaughter House in the district and the slaughter houses are used only for the slaughter of pigs under licence for home consumption. 59 pigs passed through the 2 slaughter houses during the year and most of these were inspected.

Bakehouses.

There are 6 bakehouses in the district, and several visits were made during the year. I had only to draw attention to minor complaints during the year. With regard to the unsatisfactory bakehouse mentioned in the last Annual Report work had commenced on the erection of a new bakehouse at the close of the year.

Fried Fish Shops.

The 3 fried fish shops in the town are now in good condition as regards accommodation and cleanliness, the improvements mentioned in the last Annual Report were completed during the year, to 2 of these establishments.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

26 visits were made to Cowsheds and Dairies during the year, and the following work was carried out by informal action or by agreement with the owner concerned :—

Reconstruction of 1 cowshed ;
3 new Dairies ;
4 new drainage systems.

In addition 3 farmhouses were provided with new drainage systems.

Ice Cream.

The only manufacturer in the Urban District gave up the manufacture of ice cream during the year.

At the close of the year there were 12 retailers of ice cream in the district and in all cases storage was good. In one case, however, the premises are poor and cleanliness not all that could be desired. In all other cases cleanliness was very good.

Domestic Scavenging.

The domestic scavenging of the town is carried out by direct labour. One motor vehicle and 2 men are employed on the work which consists of emptying weekly :—

179 pail closets, and
1,155 dust bins.

In addition there are 5 vault closets still in use and these are emptied as and when necessary. The men also collect trade refuse from a number of premises for which service the owners are charged 6d. in the £ of the rateable value of the premises.

The scavenging area has not been extended during the year and remains the same as set out in the report for 1948.

During the year it was possible by agreement or informal notice to get 19 pail closets converted to water closets.

Owing to the sudden falling off of the market for waste paper the Council decided to terminate the collection of salvage and disbanded their organisation.

The refuse tip is situated in Strayground Lane. It was levelled during the year and most of it sealed with suitable surplus material. A new tip will have to be acquired in the very near future.

Owing to the steady increase, due to new building, of the volume of refuse to be collected and the acquisition of a new tip, the situation of which may necessitate a greater mileage to travel, your Council will have to consider whether the purchase of a 10 cubic yard vehicle to replace the existing 7 cubic yard one will be more economical.

Rodent Control.

The position with regard to rodent control remains the same as last year.

One of the Council's employees, a trained rodent operative, continues to give part time to this service.

During the year service was given to 5 business premises and 45 domestic premises in addition to the Council's own property—refuse tip, sewers, depots, etc.

Factories and Workshops.

Most of the 40 factories and workshops in the town were visited during the year.

At the close of the year the question of the provision of conveniences at one factory was pending and during the year additional conveniences were provided at one factory and new conveniences at another. One case of infestation by mice in a works canteen was investigated.

For further work under this heading see also report on Bake-houses.

Shops Acts.

No action has been taken under the Shops Act of 1934, during the year under review.

Swimming Baths.

Conditions at the privately-owned swimming baths have remained the same as reported last year.

The water continues to be changed twice weekly.

Two samples of the water were subjected to bacteriological examination and in both cases the result was satisfactory. The reports from the laboratory stated :—

“ These results are satisfactory and there is no evidence that bathing in this water would be dangerous to health.”

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There is nothing to report under this heading. The few caravans there are in the district are controlled by the issue of licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936.

Public Conveniences.

After many complaints of nuisances and damage committed at above after dark, your Council had electric lighting installed in the public conveniences.

Summary of Inspections, etc.

	INSPECTIONS	INFORMAL NOTICES	STATUTORY NOTICES
HOUSING			
Council Houses for repairs, etc. ...	102	—	—
Other Houses (including 28 inspections and reports to Housing Committee in connection with allocating Council Houses) ...	63	21	7
Dust Bins ...	—	12	—
Pail Closets ...	16	13	—
New Houses, etc., during erection	54	2	—
Drains (39 tests) ...	70	—	—
WATER SUPPLIES			
Town supply (4 samples taken) ...	8	—	—
Other supplies (11 samples taken) ...	42	12	—
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS			
(Excluding Bakehouses) ...	27	3	—
FOOD SUPPLIES			
Bakehouses ...	15	1	—
Slaughter Houses, Butchers' Shops (approx. 59 pigs examined)	39	2	—
Fried Fish Shops ...	12	3	—
Cowsheds and Dairies ...	26	2	—
Restaurants ...	5	—	—
Ice Cream (2 samples taken) ...	13	—	—
Public Houses and Clubs ...	11	1	—
Food Condemnations :—			
23 tins of various foods			
15 tins (79½ lbs.) corned beef			
1 stone fish			

